

THE JOHNSON CITY COMET

Thirty-Second Year.

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1916.

Whole Number 1648

REUNION OF BIBLE CLASSES

THE MEN'S CLASSES OF THE VARIOUS CHURCHES ATTEND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED IN MARCH

TO MUSIC FURNISHED BY JOHNSON CITY BAND

The Men's Bible Classes of the several churches of Johnson City met in a union service Sunday at the First Presbyterian church. The classes met at the corner of Roan and Market streets at 2 o'clock and with the newly formed brass band marched to the First Presbyterian church. The Brotherhood Class of that church was the host. The classes were well attended, the number in each being: The First M. E. Church had 48, the Central Baptist 102, the S. C. Williams Bible Class of Munsey Memorial, M. E. Church, South, 123, the Geo. R. Brown class of the United Brethren Church 31, St. John's Episcopal 7, the Watauga Avenue Presbyterian church 25, and the Christian church 125.

Mr. J. E. Crouch, president of the Union, presided, and Mr. Erle Stapleton led the singing, being accompanied by Mr. Telford on the piano. Dr. Dayton Dobbs pronounced the invocation.

Resolutions expressing regret at the departure of J. Fred Johnson were adopted by the Barrens class of the Central Baptist and was then adopted by all of the classes.

Addresses were delivered by Prof. W. J. Souder, C. L. Marshall, Prof. W. A. Wright and Prof. Hopwood, of Milligan.

Mr. H. S. Fish, the class poet of the S. C. Williams Bible Class, contributed an account of the event in verse which is given below:

BIBLE CLASS MARCH.
In days gone by, when preachers
And churches could agree
About the creeds and doctrines,
Whatever they might be;
Sometimes a brimstone sermon
Made a good Brother shout,
The Parson roared the sinners,
So they grabbed their hats and went out.

The preachers now are merciful
And let us off easy and fine,
The churches love each other more,
More like their Saviour divine;
By different roads one Heaven to win.

Preach one salvation still,
And thousands of Bible classes
Try to do God's will.

Again the Bible Classes march
From many a church and street,
A valiant host triumphant,
That never know defeat;
A gathering army that is sure
To win a victor's crown,
Wherever rings their battle cry
The hosts of hell go down.

While nations fight across the sea
And Europe has gone mad,
And shakes with thunder of the guns
Rivers run red with blood;
Except some peace in Mexico,
All is peaceful here,
The Bible rules the nations
In the Western Hemisphere.

While God's spiritual inspiration
Against the hosts of sin,
Leads on these Bible Christians
The victory to win;
May they banish the ardent spirits
Of moonshine whiskey and rum,
Brought by the bootleg syndicate
Out to the Soldiers' Home.

There's a diamond stud on the
Dewey's shirt,
On the toper's a button shirt,
The drunkard's shoes are shabby,
His Oxford dangle the ear;
On his hand a diamond ring,
He dines at a swell cafe,
Wears a fine silk hat and broadcloth
And jingles his coin all day.

The brewer is jolly and fat,
The drunkard scrawny and thin,
He dines on a cold free lunch
With his beer or whiskey and gin;
He pays for what the barkeep buys,
Stupid as any old mule—
The Brewer and Barkeep are rated
Wise.

The drunkard rated a fool,
Thank God we've no liquor saloons
To drag humanity down,
Body and soul to endless death,
But last Sunday afternoon
The march of over five hundred
With the Johnson City Band,
With their inspiring music
Was something new and grand.

They marched where Jesus led
And made a gallant charge
On the new First Presbyterian,
And though the church was large,
Filled it up and the speakers,
Souder, Marshall and Wright,
Made good speeches and Mr. Crouch
Was a wonder and delight.

Prof. Stapleton's solo
Was rendered and encored well;
God gave him a wonderful voice,
Clear as a silver bell.

(Continued on Page Two)

GEN. JOHN T. RICHARDS PROMINENT VISITOR

Gen. John T. Richards, of Boston, was a prominent visitor in the city Monday for a few hours. He was accompanied by Mr. Brewster, a relative, and the two gentlemen had been in South Carolina on a hunting expedition. Gen. Richards is well known in this city, having had charge of the Soldiers' Home during the early construction of that institution, and he and his interesting family were deservedly popular in Johnson City. For several years Gen. Richards has been Governor of the Eastern Branch of the Soldiers' Home at Togus, Me., but resigned a few months ago to enter other fields. He is in splendid health and was glad to see his old friends here again, by whom he was warmly greeted. He visited the Soldiers' Home during the day and paid his respects to Gov. Smith and the other officers, all of whom were surprised and glad to see him.

MR. GEORGE BYRNE WILL LECTURE TONIGHT

At the Hotel Windsor tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock, Mr. Geo. Byrne will deliver his lecture, "The Spirit of the South," under the auspices of the U. D. C. Tickets are on sale at Crouch's Drug Store. Admission 25 cents.

Falling asleep while on duty and lying on the railroad track is believed to account for the tragic death of Lem Ward, 35, of McKenzie, assistant section foreman of the L. & N.

Claiming that the Southern Paying and Construction company failed to fulfill its contract for the streets of the main thoroughfares, the city of Knoxville sues for \$32,000.

Plans for an aggressive campaign to raise \$500,000 to advertise the Southern States were adopted at a meeting at Nashville of the executive committee of the industrial bureau of the South.

Eight months have passed since the expiration of the republican term as postmaster of Bristol, but no successor has been named.

WYTHEVILLE MAKES BID FOR SULLINS COLLEGE

WILL DONATE \$50,000 TOWARD ERECTION IF TRUSTEES WILL REMOVE INSTITUTION.

Bristol, Feb. 1.—The city of Wytheville, Va., has offered to give \$50,000 toward the erection of new buildings, if the trustees of Sullins college will remove that institution to Wytheville. The large plant of the well known Southern Methodist girls' school in this city was totally destroyed by fire December 30. An effort is now being made to put on foot a movement for the rebuilding of the college in Bristol but in the meantime other towns and cities are making an effort to get the school.

STATE NEWS.

The State Department will seek to have added to the curriculum of the preparatory schools of the state daily rifle practice by the students.

A \$50,000 relief fund will be raised by the Jews of Nashville for the war sufferers. One thousand dollars was raised at a mass meeting.

Carl Wright was shot and killed by O. B. Willis in a room at the Central Hotel at Rives while engaged in a scuffle.

Mrs. Henrietta Pump, heroine of two yellow fever epidemics, charity worker and one of the best known of the older residents, died at her home in Memphis.

Gov. Rye issued a pardon to Mrs. Puss Wright, 62 years old, who was sentenced from Humphreys county in 1902.

N. L. Beard, of Dickson county, was instantly killed in the cellar of a warehouse at Clarksville when he attempted to turn on an electric light.

An 8-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe L. Hodge, near Johnson City, was so badly burned that it died a few hours later, its clothing having caught fire from an open grate.

Jesse Sullivan, aged 19, of Henderson, was crushed to death when the goats he was driving ran away and attempted to cross the railroad track in front of train. The goats escaped.

The Southern Glove Manufacturing Company has been compelled to employ a night shift of operators in order to handle the increasing volume of orders for Morristown gloves.

The Tennessee Highway Commission elected A. M. Nelson, a well known and experienced highway engineer of Rutherford county, as state highway engineer.

TEN CONVICTS AT LIBERTY

IDENTITY OF ONLY TWO OF THE PRISONERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

THEY MADE THEIR ESCAPE THROUGH

FIVE FOOT HOLE DUG BY TWO MEN OF NIGHT SHIFT

PETROS, Feb. 1.—Ten prisoners broke out of the Brushy Mountain mines between midnight and daylight this morning. Two of them were members of the night shift and eight of the day shift. A hole was dug near the mainway, through which the prisoners escaped.

John McCully, aged 22 years, and married, of Sevier county, and Henry Arrington, aged 27 years, married, of Greene county, are the two night-shift men who made their get-away. The former was sent here Feb. 8, 1914, to serve a sentence of from three to fifteen years on the charge of burglary and larceny. The latter had served but a few months of a four to fifteen years' sentence on a grand larceny charge.

The identity of the eight men of day shift is not known, it being impossible to tell who is missing until the men return from the mines and are checked up late this afternoon.

The hole through which the prisoners made their getaway was several feet from the entrance to the mine. It is presumed that it was dug by a two night men who got away. They had to dig about five feet of earth away to see daylight. It is also the presumption that the hole was discovered by the eight day-shift men before the guards had reached the main entrance. The absence of the night men was not discovered until the count and checking up after their return to the prison. They thus had several hours' start of officers who were immediately assigned to the case with bloodhounds.

Sheriff Blankenship was notified at Knoxville of the escapes and asked to be on the lookout for them. He was given the descriptions only of Arrington and McCully. The wife of the former is said to live in Knoxville.

There were but 25 men in the night shift, while 270 went into the mines this morning.

Officials here believe that all of the men will be recaptured, because practically all of those who have escaped in former deliveries are again working in the mines.

Efforts are being made by Clarksville citizens to raise funds to take care of the defunct street railway.

MACHINERY IS TESTED OUT AT

OF JOHNSON CITY'S MILLION AND A HALF DOLLAR PLANT; PLAN FOR HOUSES

The machinery at the plant of the Clinchfield Products Company, Johnson City's new million and a half dollar concern, has been tested out for the first time and everything is being put in order for starting, which will be at an early date.

This is one of the largest plants anywhere in the south, it covering more than twenty acres of land. Eleven large and commodious buildings have been completed and four or five others will be erected at an early date.

The local chamber of commerce has taken steps to erect a number of residences near the plant for the employees and officials, the residences in Johnson City being so scarce that very few are to be found. About two hundred men are already at work at the plant and more will be added. The annual payroll will be about \$240,000. Much of the work will be done by skilled men.

The Southern Railway is making preparations to build freight yards from their line to the plant in order to haul away the products, more than half of which has already been sold for the first year's production.

WATAUGA AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

(Dayton A. Dobbs, Pastor.) (Usual hours.)

At 10:30 the pastor will preach on "The Exaltation of Jesus."

At 7:00 Young People's Day will be observed and the Young People's Societies will have charge of a very interesting program of reports and talks and music.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S TRIBUTE TO THE FLAG

Des Moines, Feb. 1.—In his speech here tonight, President Wilson paid this tribute to the American flag:
"As I look at that flag I seem to see many characters upon it which are not visible to the physical eye. There seems to move ghostly visions of devoted men who, looking to that flag, thought only of liberty, of the rights of mankind, of the mission of America to show the way to the world for the realization of those rights. And every grave of every brave man in the country would seem to have upon it the colors of the flag, if he were a true American—would seem to have on it that stain of red which means the true pulse of blood; that patch of pure white which means the peace of the soul. And then there seems to rise over the graves of these men and to hallow their memories that blue space of the sky in which swim those stars which exemplify for us the glorious galaxy of the states of the Union which stand together to vindicate the rights of mankind."

SUNDAY SCHOOL EFFICIENCY CONGRESS

SESSIONS TO BE HELD IN THE JOHNSON CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

There is to be a strong team of Bible School experts with the Christian Church the first week of April. This team is sent out by the Bible School Department of the American Christian Missionary Society to conduct Schools of Methods in Bible School and Church work. This is a real school where two sessions a day will be held and where one can take special training under an expert leader in the special department of work in which he is interested.

The opportunities of this school are open to all of the churches in East Tennessee and adjoining territory. A special invitation is extended to all of the Bible School and church workers of the various churches of Johnson City and vicinity to take advantage of this School of Methods. The method of this school is that those approved by the leaders in Bible School work the world over and can be adopted by any school in Johnson City. Let all of those interested remember the date—April 3-7—and plan to attend every session.

Further announcement will be made from time to time.

LOUIS D. RIDDELL,
Pastor of the Christian Church.

A JUST TRIBUTE TO J. FRED JOHNSON

The following just tribute to Mr. J. Fred Johnson is taken from Sunday's Journal and Tribune:
The people of Johnson City regretted deeply the confirmation of the report that Mr. J. Fred Johnson is in the future to make his home in Kingsport. Mr. Johnson has for several years been located in that city, where he was general agent of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio railroad. During this time he was instrumental in securing for Johnson City more industries for the city and surrounding sections than has come here within the past twenty years. He was a leader in all of the proper actions that the city has taken and took an active part in church work also. Mr. Johnson goes to Kingsport at the solicitation of eastern capitalists who are interested in that place and he will be in charge of the Kingsport Development Co. There is only one consolation over Mr. Johnson's going away and that is that he is not going out of Johnson City territory.

THE COCKE COUNTY REPUBLICANS CALL

PRIMARY ELECTION FOR MARCH IS STRINGENT RULES ADOPTED.

NEWPORT, TENN.—The Cocke county republican executive committee met in called session Saturday at 1 o'clock and organized by electing Dr. N. L. Dennis, of Newport, chairman, and A. E. Simerly, secretary.

In the selection of these two young men as executive officers of the committee, the republicans of Cocke county have done wisely. Both are promising young men of unquestionable character. Mr. Dennis is a dentist, while Mr. Simerly is an attorney.

The committee called a county republican primary for March 18, when nominations will be made for sheriff, trustee and tax assessor. Also a mass meeting was called for Monday, February 7th, to select delegates to the state convention for May 3.

The committee adopted stringent rules governing the primary, holding candidates to strict accountability for spending money or for influencing voters in any way. Each candidate will be required to take an oath, the violation of which will forfeit his nomination.

The anti-tipping and anti-capital punishment bill, by a decision handed down from the Supreme Court of Tennessee, become laws. These bills were passed in the last Legislature, but were vetoed by Gov. Rye, but on account of the lapse of time limit they become laws.

Hopes of finding Alvin Ware and John Taliaferro, Hamilton county officials, who went duck hunting on the Hiwassee river Jan. 9th, have been abandoned. Both were from Chattanooga, and it is believed they were drowned when their boat swamped.

Ex-Gov. M. R. Patterson, candidate for the senatorial nomination in the Democratic primaries last fall, has resumed services with the Anti-Slavery League of the United States.

A number of checks signed by a man posing as Gov. Rye have been cashed in cities throughout the South and efforts are being made to apprehend the impersonator.

Horace Jones, 42 years old, a hotel clerk in Knoxville, shot and killed his sister-in-law, Mrs. Jno. A. Jones, 42, and her son, Walter, 21, at their home near Concord.

INCREASE OF TOBACCO AREA

FOR THIS YEAR IS DECISION OF GREENE COUNTY TOBACCO ASSOCIATION.

FREE SEED WILL BE FURNISHED FARMERS

WHO WILL TRY OUT THE EXPERIMENTAL PLANTS.

GREENEVILLE, TENN.—The tobacco sales in the warehouses of Greeneville have been very heavy during the past week, but they will soon decrease and will virtually be over by March. This far the total sales in the Greeneville warehouses have reached one and three-quarter million pounds. This to the untold is a very large amount of tobacco, but last year the total sales amounted to four and a half million pounds. The amount of tobacco yet in the hands of the farmers will increase the total sales to about two and a half million pounds. The very low prices of last year and the general belief that there would be no better prices this year caused the crop planted to greatly fall off. The prices, though, have been a surprise to the farmers and very satisfactory. The fact that the crop marketed and to be marketed, in Greeneville, though only a little more than half that of last year in pounds, will bring nearly the same amount of money.

On last evening a meeting of the Greene County Tobacco Association was held in the town house and measures were adopted by which a crop of ten or fifteen million pounds will be planted this year. The north side of the county has heretofore produced but little tobacco, though from experience it has been found that the soil is as well adapted to the growth of tobacco as in other portions of the county. Money was raised to properly advertise the business with directions as to the curing and preparing the tobacco for market, and free seed will be distributed to all desiring them. It is to the large farmers that the seed will be made, and for this purpose free seed will be furnished all who desire them, and they will be urged to try from one to three acres each as an experiment. When they find that they can realize from this experiment from one to three hundred dollars there will be no doubt about their planting tobacco a second and a third year. In this way it is expected that the crop to be marketed in Greeneville next season will be swelled to twelve or fifteen million pounds.

John Hannum, a prominent citizen of Hixson, N. C., was a business visitor here Tuesday.

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BIG STEEL BOOM IN CITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK.—To know that the steel trade of the country is enjoying unexampled prosperity it is only necessary to walk through the corridors and dining rooms of some of the famous uptown hotels. Men connected with the steel business are everywhere in evidence and they are spending money at a rate that has not been equaled since the days fifteen or sixteen years ago, directly following the organization of the steel corporation. Head waters along Fifth avenue still look back to that time when the "Pittsburg lunch" of new-made millionaires first hit New York as to a golden age. Today it is not Pittsburg alone but many other parts of the country that are represented here. At a single big hotel one evening this week more than a score of men who direct the destinies of this vast industry were pointed out. As Andrew Carnegie pointed out steel is always either a prince or a pauper. Today it is enjoying a truly princely heritage.

BRIDAL GOWN BECOMES HER SHROUD FOR BURIAL

DANVILLE, Va.—A coroner's inquest was held Friday into the death of Hallie Reid, 22 years of age, who died in the general hospital from a hemorrhage brought on by being knocked down by an automobile. The car was owned by W. D. Overby, a prominent citizen, and was occupied by several women, who were returning to the city after a country drive. According to those in the car they were running slowly. When the young woman was picked up she was hastened to the hospital in the Overby automobile, where she died of internal injuries.

James Craft, the negro chauffeur, was arrested soon after the girl's death, and was bailed for his appearance, Mr. Overby going on the \$2,000 bond.

The young woman was about to be married, and had bought her wedding clothes. She will be buried in her bridal robe.

Clarence Walker, the famous ballplayer of Limestone, was in the city Monday for a short stay.

AN EXPLOSION OF A DYNAMITE CAP

INJURES TWO HARRIMAN BOYS, AGED EIGHT AND TEN YEARS RESPECTIVELY.

HARRIMAN, TENN.—Gascal, age 8, and Whitney, age 10, sons of W. H. Hyder, of Harriman, were seriously injured when a dynamite cap they were playing with exploded.

The boys found the cap where left by some persons blowing stumps and Whitney, the elder, hit it with a stone. The younger boy, Gascal, was cut and bruised by the flying particles of rock. Whitney, his brother, was severely cut about the face and hands and one eye, the left, was badly injured. Indications point to their recovery.

CHEROKEE.

Your correspondent was a business visitor in Johnson City last Saturday. Mr. John Wilkins of Johnson City was visiting friends here last week.

Severe Carson, our member of the county board, made a splendid address on education to the students and patrons of this community at New Era school house last Thursday.

Our old friend, Mr. Samuel J. Hofline, is the unanimous choice of everybody here for the seat in the county court made vacant by the resignation of Esquire W. H. Jones.

Willie Fine, our young assessor, was assessing taxes here in this section last week.

L. L. Griffiths, manager of Million dollar Clinchfield Cement company at Kingsport, is to be tried at Blountville on charge of murdering J. H. Leonard, a farmer, whom he ran down with his automobile.

Preparations are being made at Union City by the good roads auxiliary Club of the Business Men's club to arrange an interesting program for the West Tennessee League of Business Men, to be held in Martin.

Clayton Smith, Lee Simpson, John Rook, Andrew Houching and Will Wilson, from the vicinity of Harris, Odon county, were convicted of whitecapping and given indeterminate sentences of not less than three years nor more than 21 years.

George L. Carter, of Johnson City, who, for the past fifteen years, has been one of the most prominent coal operators and railroad builders in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee, has completed at Coalwood, W. Va., a coal mining shaft at a cost of \$1,000,000.

A short course in agriculture will begin on February 13 at Dresden.

THREE ROAD CONFERENCES

TO BE HELD THIS MONTH IN KNOXVILLE, NASHVILLE AND JACKSON

EVERY COUNTY SHOULD HAVE REPRESENTATION

ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY GOOD ROAD ENGINEERS

Much real good is expected to result in road work from the three Good Road Conferences to be held in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson this month. This is the first time Tennessee has attempted to hold these conferences in more than one place and the first time they have taken on real state importance. For the past three years Prof. Ferris has held conferences at the University of Tennessee, but these were devoted largely to the question of engineering. However, the conferences this year will take on a broader scope and include all forms of road building and repairing.

Every county should have a representative of their road officials at these conferences and there is no doubt the county would greatly benefit by the knowledge gained.

A number of the greatest road engineers and road builders in the country will deliver addresses at each of these conferences and local road officials will be asked to discuss problems with which they are confronted. The conferences will be held at Knoxville, road building and Nashville, Feb. 22 to 25, and at Jackson, Feb. 29 to March 3.

Many thousands of dollars are wasted and mispent every year in road work in Tennessee. This is not the fault so much of the individual spending the money, as it is of the officials in charge not being thoroughly acquainted with the problems of road building and maintenance. It is the hope of the State Department of Highways working through these conferences or institutes to conduct a campaign of education in road work similar to that worked out in the Farmers' Institutes.

The conferences will last four days at each place and a general conference at which time road officials will probably attend who were not able to attend the other days. Every phase of road engineering, road building and road maintenance will be discussed at these conferences by some of the best engineers in the country. There will be no charge for any of these lectures, the only expense incident to the conferences will be railroad fare and board, which can be secured at each place for \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. The railroads have been asked to make reduced rates for each of these conferences.

Secretary J. J. Murray, of the Department of Highways, is asking the county judges of each county to be secured at each place for \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. The railroads have been asked to make reduced rates for each of these conferences.

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